

June 27, 1865.

Professor Huxley, F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair.

The following extracts were read from a letter addressed to the Secretary by Robert Swinhoe, Esq., H.B.M. Vice-Consul, Formosa, dated Takow, S.W. Formosa, 27th March, 1865 :—

“A friend of mine, who has been some time located in the river Yangtze, at Chinkiang, tells me that large herds of a Hog Deer are found periodically on an island in that river. These animals have coarse bristles and pig-like faces, with tusks. I have never seen the animal, but from his description should take it to be the *Hyelaphus porcinus*. It swims across to the island at the flooding of the great river, and when the water sinks is left isolated, owing to the high banks of the island. It then lurks about the bushes and high coarse grass. Parties of Europeans and Chinese then land on the island with fire-arms and make easy prey of the poor beasts, driving them from one end of the island to the other. Every season large numbers of them are thus slaughtered. They are rather coarse eating, but are said to make pretty fair venison when hung for some days. I have lately procured you a fine female of the *Cervus taiwanus*; it has gone on to Hongkong, and I trust will be thence forwarded all safe to you.

“I am sorry I cannot give you any particulars as to the whereabouts exactly of the pair of *Sus*\*, which I obtained for the Society in July 1862, and one of which reached you in safety. The person from whom I got the pair told me he purchased them off a boat in Dampier's Straits. This is all, I regret to say, I can tell you about their origin.”

The Secretary announced the safe arrival in the Society's Gardens, on the previous evening, of a young male African Elephant, received in exchange from the Jardin des Plantes, Paris.

Mr. G. F. Busk communicated a memoir upon the fossil Elephants of Malta, based upon collections formed in that island by Captain Spratt, R.N., which had been originally placed in the hands of the late Dr. Falconer for examination. Upon Dr. Falconer's decease, Mr. Busk had undertaken the task of identifying these remains, which he was induced to refer to three species of the genus *Elephas*. One of these, not much inferior in bulk to the existing Indian Elephant, was, as Dr. Busk believed, probably referable to *Elephas antiquus*. The two others were both of diminutive stature as compared with the existing species of Elephant, neither of them having exceeded 5 feet in height. To one of these, slightly the larger of the two, Mr. Busk proposed to restrict Dr. Falconer's name *Elephas melitensis*, and to call the other and smaller one after the lamented naturalist who had done so much towards increasing our knowledge

\* *Sus*, sp. 235 of 'List of Vertebrated Animals,' 1865, p. 37.

of these animals, *Elephas falconeri*. The two latter species were distinguished by very well-marked dental and other characters.

This paper will be published in full in the Society's 'Transactions.'

A paper was read by Professor Owen containing descriptions of new species of Indian Cetaceans, which had been observed and collected on the eastern coast of the Indian peninsula by Walter Elliot, Esq., F.Z.S. Of the seven species described as new, six belonged to the family *Delphinidæ*; the seventh was referred to the Sperm-Whales (*Physeteridæ*), and proposed to be called *Physeter (Eu-physetes) simus*.

This paper will likewise be published in full in the Society's 'Transactions.'

The following papers were read:—

1. DESCRIPTION OF TWO SPECIES OF CHITONIDÆ, FROM THE COLLECTION OF W. HARPER PEASE, ESQ. BY PHILIP P. CARPENTER, B.A., PH.D.

CHITON (LOPHYRUS) PERVIRIDIS, Cpr.

*C. t. parva, angustiore, elevata, jugo acuto; colore intense prasinato; tota superficie sub lente minutissime squamuloso; areis diag. et valv. externis radiatim liris, liris obtusis, parum conspicuis, lateraliter iv.-v., antice et postice xx.-xxv.; areis centr. sulcis distantibus, jugo parallelis, circ. xii., parum impressis; mucrone antice subcentrali, satis conspicuo; intus laminis insertionis valv. term. viii.-xi., centr. unifissatis; dentibus acutioribus, alte pectinatis, subgrundis curtis; sinu latiore, planato, ad jugum dentato; pallio squamis magnis, solidis, imbricatis sed striatis instructo.*

Long. .45, lat. .25, alt. .12 poll.

*Hab.* Central Pacific (Pease) (no. 299).

A solitary specimen of this interesting species is very like *C. virescens*, Rve.\*, in general appearance; but the mantle of that species is nearly smooth, and the valves scarcely sculptured. This shell is of a uniform bright green. It has the aspect of *Lepidopleurus*; but the insertion-plates, though sharp, are deeply pectinated. It differs from most other Chitons in having the scales distinctly striated, as in *C. striatosquamosus*, Maz. Cat. no. 250.

ACANTHOPLEURA NIGROPUNCTATA, n. s.

*A. t. parva, satis elongata, olivaceo et fusco eleganter nebulosa; satis fornicata, jugo obtuso; areis later. satis definitis, rugis radiantibus et longitudinalibus irregulariter decussantibus ornatis, inter quas punctula nigra subradiatim sparguntur; ar. centr. rugis subparallelis, subdecussatis, vix regularibus, ad*

\* Four out of the five specimens in Mus. Cuming. have a brown-marbled anterior valve, with brown dots along the sutures.